

House Engrossed

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2003

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2007

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE JUST COMPENSATION TO THE STATE OF ARIZONA FOR THE IMPACT OF FEDERAL LAND OWNERSHIP ON THE STATE'S ABILITY TO FUND PUBLIC EDUCATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress of the United States:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, for many years western states have grappled with the challenge
4 of providing the best education for their citizens; and

5 Whereas, western states face unique challenges in achieving this goal;
6 and

7 Whereas, from 1979 to 1998 the per cent change in expenditures per
8 pupil in thirteen western states was 28 per cent, compared to 57 per cent in
9 the remaining states; and

10 Whereas, in 2000-2001, the pupil per teacher ratio in thirteen western
11 states averaged 17.9 to one compared with 14.8 to one in the remaining
12 states; and

13 Whereas, the conditions in western states are exacerbated by
14 projections that enrollment will increase by an average of 7.1 per cent
15 compared to an average decrease of 2.6 per cent in the rest of the nation;
16 and

17 Whereas, despite the wide disparities in expenditures per pupil and
18 pupil per teacher ratio, western states tax at a comparable rate and allocate
19 as much of their budgets to public education as the rest of the nation; and

20 Whereas, the ability of western states to fund education is directly
21 related to federal ownership of state lands; and

22 Whereas, the federal government owns an average of 51.9 per cent of the
23 land in thirteen western states compared to 4.1 per cent in the remaining
24 states; and

25 Whereas, the enabling acts of most western states promise that 5 per
26 cent of the proceeds from the sale of federal lands will go to the states for
27 public education; and

28 Whereas, a federal policy change in 1977 ended these sales resulting
29 in an estimated 14 billion dollars in lost public education funding for
30 western states; and

31 Whereas, the ability of western states to fund public education is
32 further impacted by the fact that state and local property taxes, on which
33 public education relies heavily to fund education, cannot be assessed on
34 federal lands; and

35 Whereas, the estimated annual impact of this property tax prohibition
36 on western states is more than 4 billion dollars; and

37 Whereas, the federal government shares only half of its royalty revenue
38 with the states; and

39 Whereas, royalties are further reduced because federal lands are less
40 likely to be developed and federal laws often place stipulations on the use
41 of state royalty payments; and

42 Whereas, the estimated annual impact of royalty payment policies on
43 western states is more than 1.86 billion dollars; and

44 Whereas, much of the land that the federal government transferred to
45 states on statehood as a trust for public education is difficult to

1 administer and to make productive because it is surrounded by federal land;
2 and

3 Whereas, federal land ownership greatly hinders the ability of western
4 states to fund public education; and

5 Whereas, the federal government should compensate western states for
6 the significant impact federal land ownership has on the ability of western
7 states to educate its citizens; and

8 Whereas, just compensation will allow western states to be on equal
9 footing with the rest of the nation in their efforts to provide education for
10 their citizens.

11 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
12 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

13 1. That the United States Congress appropriate just compensation to
14 the State of Arizona for the impact of federal land ownership on this state's
15 ability to fund public education.

16 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies
17 of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the
18 United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
19 Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

PASSED BY THE HOUSE MAY 16, 2003.

PASSED BY THE SENATE MAY 20, 2003.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAY 20, 2003.

Passed the House May 16, 20 03

by the following vote: 41 Ayes

18 Nays, 1 Not Voting

Jake Flake
Speaker of the House

Norman L. Moore
Chief Clerk of the House

Passed the Senate May 20, 20 03

by the following vote: 30 Ayes

0 Nays, 0 Not Voting

Ken Blunett
President of the Senate

Charmian Bellington
Secretary of the Senate

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

This Memorial was received by the Secretary of State

H.C.M. 2007

this 20 day of May, 20 03

at 1:44 o'clock P M.

Janice K. Brewer
Secretary of State